



**Testimony before House Senior Health, Security, and Retirement Committee  
April 18, 2006  
By Sarah Slocum, State Long Term Care Ombudsman**

Thank you Representative VanderVeen and members of the committee for opportunity to address you today regarding HB 5762 and 5919, the Michigan Long Term Care Act.

This legislation is an important step as we move forward with long term care reforms recommended by the bi-partisan Governor's Medicaid Long Term Care Task Force. The State Long Term Care Ombudsman Program supports this legislation because it begins the work of restructuring law and policy into a cohesive body by putting in one place the different laws that govern various parts of the array of long term care supports and services.

Philosophically, this legislative effort reflects the holistic, person-centered approach favored by the task force, and establishes in law the importance of long term care as its own area of public policy.

As an advocate on behalf of consumers of long term care supports and services, I look forward to working with you to implement the Long Term Care Act and other key provisions of the task force report. Thank you.